There was some similarity in the positions of the First and Second Dumas, but the distribution of forces in the nation had changed. Stolypin's government was stronger than Goremykin's, and the people were more nearly unanimous in their opposition to the Tsarist regime. The open clash between the nation and the government was near, but the revolutionary spirit in the people was gone.

Life in the S-D party was wholly dominated by interfactional squabble. The Mensheviks demanded a party trial of Lenin, accusing him of having slandered them in a pamphlet criticizing their tactics in the St. Petersburg elections. The pamphlet was indeed insulting, if not directly slanderous. I moved a resolution in the St. Petersburg Committee not to distribute it in the local organization but was beaten by a narrow margin. When I told Lenin the reason for my motion, he laughed genially. "You are too thin-skinned, Comrade Petrov, and do not know the Mensheviks well enough."

His good humor was genuine. He always enjoyed his opponents' blunders, and the campaign the Menshevist High Command launched against him at this time was the greatest blunder he could have hoped to have them make.

PUBLIC WORKS

My work for the Council of the Unemployed was becoming increasingly tiring. I seldom had more than four or five hours of sleep and rarely saw my parents, sister, and brothers. All day I was surrounded by people, listening and talking, resting only in the trolley on the way from one spot to another. And I had to keep all my appointments, decisions, disputes, requests, and promises in my head, without benefit of secretary and files. The only satisfaction I got from this killing job was that I liked the persons with and for whom I worked.

Our main difficulty was with the slow development of the projects. Engineer Nurberg, in charge of work in the harbor, agreed to place five to six hundred additional men on his project, but his plan was vetoed by Bers, the chief engineer of the Municipal Committee. After long negotiations, the Committee authorized Nurberg to hire two hundred more men. I went to the harbor, called a conference of foremen and worker delegates headed now by Zagoraev, and asked them whether they would be able to handle the situation if, instead of two hundred men as requested, twelve hundred should report for work. They thought they could if the workers came at intervals—some two hundred men each half hour.

We spent the night assembling and organizing the crews. In the

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